# Healthcare Facility COVID-19 Triage Screening for Non-Critical Patients

Limit the number of people accompanying each patient to a maximum of one (1). Pediatric patients and those who are not competent to make their own decisions should be allowed a visitor to stay with them. All others should be directed to wait in an area external to the healthcare facility/triage area, such as in their private vehicle.

# TRIAGE STEP 1: CHECK THE TEMPERATURE AND OXYGEN SATURATION LEVEL OF ALL NON-CRITICAL PATIENTS DURING SIGN-IN

Febrile or hypoxic

OR

Afebrile but coughing or experiencing signs of respiratory

YES

Place a surgical mask on patient (as tolerated), separate from others according to social distancing recommendations, and tag RED. TRIAGE STEP 2

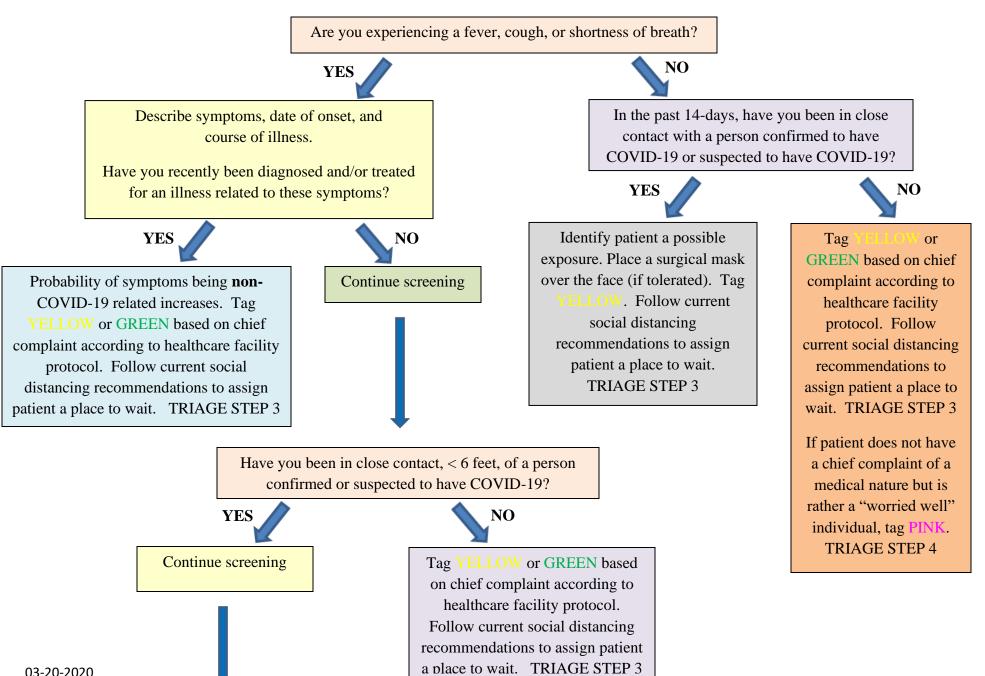


Tag GREEN and follow current social distancing recommendations to assign patient a place to wait.

TRIAGE STEP 2

\*If at any time a patient undergoing COVID-19 screening develops symptoms consistent with a critical condition, assume the patient is a possible COVID-19 case and prioritize for immediate medical triage and/or treatment.

### TRIAGE STEP 2: SCREENING QUESTIONS TO ASK ALL NON-CRITICAL PATIENTS



## TRIAGE STEP 2 CONTINUED: SCREENING QUESTIONS TO ASK ALL NON-CRITICAL PATIENTS

Do you have any chronic medical conditions? **YES** NO If conditions identified are heart disease, Continue screening diabetes, chronic lung disease, immunosuppression, or chronic kidney disease and clinical presentation is consistent with COVID-19-like illness, identify patient as a possible COVID-19 case. Place a surgical mask over the face (if tolerated). Tag RED. Follow current social distancing recommendations to assign patient a place to wait. What is your age? **TRIAGE STEP 3** 

Patient of **ANY AGE** with moderate to severe symptoms

Identify patient as a possible COVID-19 case. Place a surgical mask over the face (if tolerated). Tag RED.

TRIAGE STEP 3

**AGE**  $\geq$  **65** years and clinical presentation is consistent with a COVID-19-like illness.

Identify patient as a possible COVID-19 case. Place a surgical mask over the face (if tolerated). Follow current social distancing recommendations to assign patient a place to wait Tag YELLOW.

**TRIAGE STEP 3** 

**AGE** ≤ **65** years and symptoms appear mild to moderate

Identify patient as a possible COVID-19 case. Place a surgical mask over the face (if tolerated). Tag GREEN. Follow current social distancing recommendations to assign patient a place to wait.

TRIAGE STEP 3

#### TRIAGE STEP 3: TRIAGE BASED ON CHIEF COMPLAINT ACCORDING TO HOSPITAL PROTOCOL

Does the patient's condition require treatment in the Emergency Department?



Assign to treatment area according to healthcare facility protocol.



Refer patient to primary care physician for follow-up or to designated area of the healthcare facility (not the ED) where non-urgent complaints can be addressed.

#### TRIAGE STEP 4: CHIEF COMPLAINT TRIAGED TO BE "WORRIED WELL"

Provide patient with literature on COVID-19 and steps that individuals can take to decrease transmission. If applicable, provide information on healthcare facility Telehealth Program. Inform individual that Emergency Department and healthcare facility services are prioritized for people with clinical illnesses and medical conditions. Send individual home.

#### CONSIDERATIONS

Color coded stickers, cards, or one-time use wrist bands can be used to "tag" non-critical patients for COVID-19 screening.

Identify two different waiting areas for TRIAGE STEP 3 and treatment. One location for patients who triaged as low risk/GREEN for COVID-19 during TRIAGE STEP 2 and a different location for patients who triaged as higher risk/YELLOW and RED for COVID-19. Separating these groups while waiting for TRIAGE STEP 3 and treatment may help to decrease nosocomial infection with COVID-19.

Updated fact sheets on COVID-19 for the public can be found at <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus</a>

Triage Step 4 can be staffed with non-clinical personnel. Staff can use "Frequently Asked Question" documents to provide consistent information to the public. Documents with the latest information can be found at <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html</a> and <a href="https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus">https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus</a>

The location for Triage Step 4 should be different than the areas used for COVID-19 screening, medical triage, and treatment areas.

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